

## Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 FDRE-00 SSO-00 /073 W

----- 035124

R 080740Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2262

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 1390

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MILI, SN, VS

SUBJECT: GOS DISPOSITION OF VIETNAMESE HERCULES C-130

REF: SINGAPORE 1339

1. S.R. NATHAN, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE  
DIVISION (SID) IN MINDEF, INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER IN  
STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT GOS WAS CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING  
COURSES OF ACTION REGARDING ABOVE SUBJECT.

A) AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN IMPOUNDED BY GOS AND WILL  
NOT BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY DESPITE GVN CHARGE'S  
ADVICE TO GOS THAT THE GVN PLANS TO SEND A CREW TO  
SINGAPORE TO FLY THE HERCULES AND ALL OF ITS 56  
PASSENGERS BACK TO VIETNAM. NATHAN SAID THAT AS WITH  
ANY STOLEN PROPERTY IMPOUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THERE  
WERE LEGAL PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR PROCESSING  
PROPERTY'S RETURN TO RIGHTFUL OWNERS AND THAT THESE  
PROCEDURES WOULD TAKE TIME.

B) FOUR MILITARY OFFICERS WOULD BE RETURNED TO  
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SVN. (THE FIFTH, A MILITARY CHAPLAIN 1ST LT., WILL

BE TREATED AS A CIVILIAN.)NATHAN SAID THE MILITARY OFFICERS ON THEIR ARRIVAL HAD DISCLAIMED BEING DE-SERTERS, AND HAD SAID THAT THEY INTENDED, ONCE THEIR REFUGEE CIVILIAN PASSENGERS WERE DISCHARGED, TO FLY THE HERCULES BACK TO SVN. NATHAN SAID THE GOS INTENDED TO ADVISE THE GVN THAT THE GOS BELIEVED THE OFFICERS' STORY MIGHT BE TRUE, THEREBY HOPEFULLY MITIGATING WHAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE EXTREMELY HARSH TREATMENT BY SVN WHEN THE FOUR OFFICERS INVOLVED RETURN TO VIETNAM.

C) CONCERNING THE OTHER 52 PASSENGERS, NATHAN SAID THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF THE GOS WERE DESIGNED TO DISCOURAGE ANY OTHERS WHO MIGHT ATTEMPT TO ENTER SINGAPORE ILLEGALLY. THUS, THE GOS HAS INDICATED PUBLICLY THAT IT PLANS TO ARRANGE FOR RETURN OF ALL THE PASSENGERS.

2. IN SPITE OF ITS PUBLIC POSTURE, NATHAN SAID GOS DOES NOT WISH TO BE CRITICIZED IN SINGAPORE OR BY THE WORLD AT LARGE FOR BEING HEARTLESS. GOS THEREFORE PLANS TO STALL RELEASING THE CIVILIANS TO THE GVN IN THE HOPE THAT SOME FORMULA CAN BE WORKED OUT WHEREBY THE REFUGEES CAN BE GIVEN ASYLUM ELSEWHERE THAN IN SINGAPORE.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER TOLD NATHAN THE DISPOSITION OF THE REFUGEES WAS A MATTER BETWEEN THE GOS AND THE GVN, AND THE U.S. WOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE GVN'S EXPRESSED WISHES, PARTICULARLY IF THAT ACTION WOULD APPEAR TO CONDONE IN ANY WAY THE ILLEGALITIES SURROUNDING THE C-130'S ARRIVAL IN SINGAPORE AND THE ILLEGAL DEPARTURE OF EMIGRANTS FROM VIETNAM. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM MIGHT EVENTUALLY GENERATE LARGER RESETTLEMENT PROBLEMS, AND THEREFORE IF THE GOS DECIDED ON ITS OWN TO HOLD THE CIVILIAN REFUGEES HERE, THEIR EVENTUAL RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE MIGHT CONCEIVABLY PROVE POSSIBLE. MATTER WAS LEFT THAT FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THIS QUESTION WOULD BE SOLICITED FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND SAIGON.

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4. GVN CHARGE HAS CONFIRMED THAT GVN IS SENDING IN CREW TO SINGAPORE TO BRING THE C-130 AND ALL 56 PASSENGERS BACK TO VIETNAM.

5. I HAVE INSTRUCTED EMBASSY OFFICER LIAISON WITH NATHAN TO INFORM HIM THAT THE C-130 IS URGENTLY NEEDED IN VIETNAM FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS, AND THAT I WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO TAKE MATTER UP WITH ACTING PRIME

MINISTER IF THERE WAS TO BE ANY DELAY IN RETURNING  
AIRCRAFT TO GVN.

6. WASHINGTON AND SAIGON COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED.  
CRONK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT DETENTION, POLICIES, LAW, POLITICAL ASYLUM, REFUGEES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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